



MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF FLINT.



# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT ::

For the Year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December, 1947.



## BOROUGH OF FLINT.

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### To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Borough Council of Flint.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour, as your Medical Officer, to present to you my Report on the health of the Borough during the year ended 31st December, 1947.

### SECTION A.

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

**Area.**—No change of boundary having occurred, the area of the Borough remains at 6,248 statutory acres.

**Population.**—The population of the Borough, estimated at mid-year 1947 by the Registrar-General, was 13,554. The corresponding figure for the year 1946 was 13,160.

**Inhabited Houses.**—There were, according to the Council's Rate Books, 3,808 inhabited houses in the Borough at the end of the year. The average number of persons per house was therefore 3.56. The population density of the area was 2.17 persons per statutory acre.

**Financial Conditions.**—The product of a penny rate, in respect of the financial year 1947-48, was £244, and the (reduced) rateable value on the 1st April, 1948, was £63,768.

**Social Conditions.**—The general standard of health has been maintained at a satisfactory high level. The industries which I have referred to in past reports continued to provide employment for the residents of the Borough, and it has not been noticed that the proximity of the industries to the people's homes has had any adverse effect upon their health.

**Vital Statistics.**—The vital statistics are herein presented in tabular form and, for purposes of comparison, I have given (where appropriate) the corresponding figures for the previous year. Where possible, also, the 'rates' in respect of England and Wales as a whole have been shown.

TABLE 1.—BIRTHS.

Classification.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.		Rate per 1000 total (live & still births).	
					1947.	1946.	1947.	1946
Live Births—								
Legitimate	...	185	160	345	25.45	23.33	—	—
Illegitimate	...	7	13	20	1.48	.91	—	—
Legit. & Illegit.		192	173	365	26.93	24.24	—	—
Stillbirths—								
Legitimate	...	7	4	11	.81	.83	29.26	33.23
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	—	.08	—	3.02
Legit. & Illegit.		7	4	11	.81	.91	29.26	36.25
All Births (live & still)	...	199	177	376	27.74	25.15	—	—

From the foregoing Table it will be observed that the live-birth rate shows an increase over the rate for 1946 of 2.69 per 1,000 of the population, and that the still-birth rate shows a decrease of .1 per 1,000 (live and still births).

The live-birth rates for England and Wales as a whole were, in respect of the year 1946, 19.1 per 1,000 population, and for the year 1947, 20.5 per 1,000 population.

TABLE 2.—DEATHS (General) RATE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.	
				1947.	1946.
All ages (all causes) ...	72	71	143	10.55	9.5

The death-rate for England and Wales, as a whole, as declared by the Registrar-General, is 12.0. It will therefore be noted that the rate for the Borough continues to compare favourably with that for the whole country, although the figure for the year under report shows an increase of 1.05 per 1,000 population over that for 1946.

TABLE 3.—DEATHS (General) ANALYSIS.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate
				per 1000 population.
Heart Disease ...	22	22	44	3.25
Causes (other than elsewhere specified)	9	10	19	1.40
Cancer (sites other than those specified)	6	6	12	.89

TABLE 3.—DEATHS (General) ANALYSIS—Con.

Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	3	6	9	.66
Pneumonia ... ..	4	4	8	.59
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases ...	5	3	8	.59
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	3	7	.52
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum...	3	3	6	.44
Diseases of Circulatory System (not elsewhere specified) ... ..	1	3	4	.30
Respiratory Diseases (not otherwise specified) ... ..	1	2	3	.22
Violence (not elsewhere specified) ...	2	1	3	.22
Cancer (Breast) .. ..	—	2	2	.15
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	2	—	2	.15
Nephritis ... ..	2	—	2	.15
Premature Birth ... ..	1	1	2	.15
Tuberculosis—non-respiratory ...	2	—	2	.15
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	1	2	.15
Influenza ... ..	—	1	1	.07
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	1	1	.07
Cancer of buc., cav. & Oesoph (M), Uterus (F) ... ..	—	1	1	.07
Diabetes ... ..	1	—	1	.07
Bronchitis ... ..	1	—	1	.07
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	—	1	.07
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	1	—	1	.07
Suicide ... ..	—	1	1	.07
Totals ... ..	72	71	143	10.55

Heart Disease, it will be noted, again heads the list of Causes of Death. There were two deaths from Diarrhœa in children under the age of 2 years. Whooping Cough also accounted for two deaths.

TABLE 4.—DEATHS (Childbirth).

I am pleased to report that no death occurred from, or in consequence of, childbirth during the year.

TABLE 5.—DEATH RATES (Infantile).  
(i.e., Infants under 1 year of age).

Classification.	Males.	Females.	Total	Rate per 1000 live births.		England & Wales 1947.
				1947.	1946.	
Legitimate ... ..	12	5	17	46.6	37.62	—
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1	2.7	3.13	—
Legit & Illegit. ...	12	6	18	49.3	40.75	41.0

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

**Officers.**—The Officers serving the Borough during the year under report were:—

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. W. A. F. Twemlow, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London).

Town Clerk: Mr. D. H. Davies, Ll.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor: Mr. W. J. Avery, M.I.M.E., C.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: Mr. Arthur Jones.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—Your Officers continued to use the Public Health Laboratories at Conway during the year under report.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—The arrangements as described in my last Report continued to operate throughout the year. The ambulance belonging to Messrs. Courtaulds, Ltd., has been available to the public when not in actual use by the owners.

**Nursing in the Home.**—The Flint District Nursing Association continued its beneficent work throughout the year, and the Association's trained Nurse paid no fewer than 2,200 visits to patients in their own homes during the year ended 30th April, 1948. As in the past, the local detachments of the Red Cross and St. John Organisations rendered valuable assistance.

**Midwifery.**—The area was served by five qualified Midwives practising domiciliary midwifery within the Borough. Of these, two were provided by the County Council in whole-time capacity. Maternity patients could also be admitted to the County Council's Maternity Homes at Prestatyn and Mancot and to the Maternity Block at the St. Asaph Hospital.

**Treatment Clinics and Centres.**—The following Table gives particulars of the Centres and Clinics at which facilities for consultation and/or treatment are available to the residents of the Borough:—

Clinic.	Situation.	Dates and Times of Opening.
<b>Tuberculosis</b> (Provided by the Welsh ... Nat. Memorial Association under arrangements made by the County Council).	Cottage Hospital, ... Holywell. Oaklands, Queens- ... ferry.	Every Tuesday, 10-30 a.m. Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.



## Venereal Diseases

(Under arrangements...Royal Infirmary, ...Males: Every Wednesday, 5—7 p.m.  
made by the County Chester. Every Saturday, 12 noon—2 p.m.  
Council). Females: Every Monday, 5—7 p.m.  
Every Thursday, 5—7 p.m.

## Ante-Natal

(Provided by County...The Clinic, Boro'...1st & 3rd Thurs-  
Council). Grove, Flint. days of month,  
9-30 a.m.—12 noon.

## Infant Welfare and Post-Natal

(Provided by County...The Clinic, Boro'...Every Monday, 1-30-  
Council). Grove, Flint. 4-30 p.m. Medical  
Officer attends 2nd  
& 4th Monday each  
month.

## School Clinic

(Provided by County...The Clinic, Boro'...Every Tuesday, 9-30  
Council). Grove, Flint. a.m.—12 noon.

## Orthopædic

(Provided by County...Holywell—Cottage...2nd & 4th Friday each  
Council under arrange- Hospital. month, 10 a.m.—12  
ments with the Robert noon.  
Jones and Agnes Hunt Rhyl—Old Em- ...2nd & 4th Friday each  
Orthopædic Hospital, manuel School, month, 1-30—3-30  
Oswestry). Vale Road. p.m.  
Shotton—New ...1st & 3rd Friday each  
Clinic, Central month, 10-30 a.m.  
School. —1-30 p.m.

**Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).—**The Annual Report of the Flint Cottage Hospital and Nursing Association contains the following interesting information regarding the work of the Association during the year ended 30th April, 1948:—

The Hospital admitted 412 persons as in-patients during the year. 165 operations were performed, 93 of which were of a major character; 8 patients died in the Hospital. The average stay of patients in hospital was 10 days. Out-patients numbered 133, their treatment involving 423 dressings.

The mobile X-Ray Unit was extensively used throughout the year, and 259 X-Ray photographs were taken in respect of 157 patients. It is also stated that "through the generosity of the Flint Borough Council, and the kind assistance of the local Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, an extension is being erected which will further enhance the usefulness of the Unit."

A number of patients were admitted to the Chester Royal Infirmary and to the County Council's Public Assistance Hospitals at Holywell and St. Asaph.

**Public Mortuary.**—Pending the provision of a Mortuary by the County Council the Authority is dependent upon the Flint Cottage Hospital for this service.

## SECTION C.

**Water and Water Supplies.**—The water supply to the Borough was well maintained during the year under report. The sources from the Birkenhead Mains and from Coed Onn were not changed and were satisfactory. All the water is chlorinated.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—A Public Enquiry was held on 21st January, 1947, with regard to the Bagillt Sewerage Scheme. As a result, amendments were required by the Welsh Board of Health to the scheme for the provision of partial treatment of the sewerage. The submission of further plans incorporating these amendments, together with the acquisition of the land required for the construction of the works have, unfortunately taken up a considerable time and have resulted in further delays to a scheme which must be regarded as of paramount importance.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that the continued existence in our midst of an antiquated drainage system is a considerable menace to the health of the people. While this fundamental scheme is held up, the provision and extension of other health services cannot proceed to full advantage.

Consideration of the needs of Bagillt so far as drainage is concerned has, I fear, tended to eclipse the almost equally pressing need of Oakenholt and Flint Mountain.

It should be, and I am sure I can say it is, the hope of the Authority that the drainage scheme will be perfected and extended until every dwelling-house has access to modern facilities.



**Public Cleansing.**—The whole working of the area of the main tip has been consolidated and covered with soil during the year, and a greatly improved standard of maintenance sustained.

A contract was entered into between the Borough Council and the War Agricultural Executive Committee with a view to the tip being serviced by their Rodent Operators, thus reducing this very destructive form of infestation. The work was efficiently and successfully carried out and the tip is now comparatively free from large scale infestations.

The need for a new tipping area is becoming more apparent. Repeated surveys have been made throughout the Borough, but no suitable site has yet been found. This matter is still receiving the attention of the Borough Officials.

**Sanitary Inspection and Supervision.**—The following Table gives the number of routine and special inspections made by your Sanitary Inspector during the year:—

TABLE 6.—SANITARY INSPECTION and SUPERVISION.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses ... ..	79
do. Tents, Vans and Sheds... ..	2
do. Courts, Yards and Passages ... ..	1
do. Drains, Closets, etc. ... ..	15
do. Offensive Accumulations ... ..	3
do. Rodent Infestations ... ..	33
Rodent Treatment ... ..	33
Defective House Drainage ... ..	316
Infectious Disease Visits and Re-visits... ..	31
Fumigation and Disinfection ... ..	27
Number of Cesspools emptied ... ..	34
Additional Fumigations ... ..	9
Bug Infestation Treatment ... ..	1
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Total Inspections, etc. ... ..	584

TABLE 7.—MISCELLANEOUS COMPLAINTS

(for which Notices were issued).

Lopping of Hedges ... ..	10
To abate a Nuisance ... ..	5
Works required to Drains and Closets... ..	4
Supply of Dustbins... ..	22
Works required under Housing Act ... ..	17
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Total ... ..	58

## SECTION D.

**Housing.**—Progress continues in the post-war Housing Schemes and work on 62 houses on the Chester Road site is nearing completion. During the year 16 houses have been completed. Work commenced during the year on 22 houses on the Sixth Avenue site, and it is anticipated that the whole scheme will be completed by the summer.

The roads and sewers were laid on to the Wern Estate, Bagillt, and the erection of the first allocation of 10 houses commenced in December. The scheme is being carried out under the Council's Direct Labour Scheme, and it is hoped that it will prove a more expeditious method.

Housing accommodation is, in the Borough, an urgent and an increasing need, and it is the hope of all concerned with this aspect of the Council's responsibility that we shall be able to speed up our efforts to provide satisfactory accommodation for all the residents within a reasonable time.

It is, I think, to be regretted that economic circumstances dictate to a great extent the types of houses which can be erected. Nevertheless, we may hope that it might be possible to erect a greater variety of houses, incorporating the most up-to-date features from the point of view of health and labour-saving in the not very distant future.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**Milk and Milk Supplies.**—The milk and milk supplies within the Borough for 1947 were satisfactory and there were no complaints as to the quality, cleanliness and attention given by the producers and retailers. Several inspections of the dairies and milk-shops were made by your Sanitary Officers and there was no cause for any adverse comment.

**Bakehouses.**—It was not found necessary to take any action under this head.

**Meat and Other Foods Condemned.**—Routine and special visits were paid by your Officers to shops and food depôts during the year, and the articles of food listed below were condemned and disposed of owing to the fact that they were found to be unfit for human consumption:—43 tins meat, 107 tins milk, 328 tins fish, 108 tins fruit, 58lbs. vegetables, 392lbs. fresh fish, 89lbs. frest meat, 10lbs. cheese, 60lbs. flour, 15 cwts. potatoes, 32½lbs. butter, 12lbs. tomatoes, 10¼lbs. bacon, 13oz. dried egg, 30lbs. raisins, 10lbs. oats.

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

TABLE 8.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Name of Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	19	8	—
Pneumonia ... ..	9	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	7	7	—
Diphtheria ... ..	6	6	—
Erysipelas ... ..	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	...	...
Totals ... ..	45	21	—

TABLE 9.

### ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The figures shown in Column 1 of the foregoing Table are analysed in age groups below:—

Disease.	Number of Cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.										Total
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	U'kn	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1...	2...	2...	7...	5...	1...	1...	...	...	...	19
Pneumonia ... ..	2...	...	1...	...	...	1...	1...	3...	1...	...	9
Acute P'myelitis... ..	...	3...	3...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	4...	...	...	6
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	1...	...	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ... ..	4...	5...	6...	8...	5...	2...	4...	9...	2...	...	45

**Isolation.**—The Authority being a constituent member of the St. Asaph Joint Hospital Board, cases of infectious disease were sent to the Board's Isolation Hospital, and were conveyed there in the Hospital's ambulance.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**—The importance of this preventive treatment was constantly stressed to the public, and particularly to the parents of young children, throughout the year. The extent to which this treatment was carried out may be seen by the following figures:—

Estimated population—Children age 0-4 (inclus.)...1,230:	
Number of children in this age group completely immunised during the year ...	122
Estimated population—Children age 5-14 (inclus.)...2,200:	
Number of children in this age group completely immunised during the year ...	5
Total number of children completely immunised during the year ...	127

TABLE 10.—TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases notified during the year 1947.

Age Groups.			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Total
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Cases.
0-	...	...	—	—	1	—	1
1-	...	...	—	—	1	2	3
15-	...	...	3	4	—	—	7
25-	...	...	4	2	1	—	7
35-	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
45-	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
55-	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
65-	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
All ages			7	9	3	2	21

While the Council's efforts in the matter of providing Housing accommodation have been admirable, I nevertheless feel it my duty again to stress the extreme importance and urgency of pressing on, with the utmost vigour, with the programme for providing adequate housing for our people. Not until the people are properly housed can we expect to reap the benefits from the new social and health legislation, the object of which is to raise the general standard of the health of the community to its highest possible level. In view of this, I should like to say, that the provision of facilities for the taking of relaxation under open-air conditions is a praiseworthy policy, and this idea can be kept in mind in setting apart a certain number of the proposed residences to be of the bungalow type, accommodating 4-5 people, and designed with a verandah on the southern or south-western aspect. By the provision of glass partitions and suitable French windows such enclosure, in un-

favourable weather, would be capable of affording the maximum exposure to air and sunshine; it would give an artistic appearance to the general front with floral decorations, etc. The extra cost could be met by adjustment of the rent.

In conclusion, I desire to express to you, as members of the Council, my appreciation of the consideration you have afforded to me during the year. I desire also, once again, to record my appreciation of the whole-hearted assistance and co-operation which I have received from your Officials.

I remain, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

**W. A. F. TWEMLOW,**

Medical Officer of Health.

33, Church Street,  
Flint, August, 1948.







